

# POLAR BEAR UPDATE



Arctic Military Police Battalion  
BLDG 658, Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505

## 164<sup>th</sup> Military Police Deployment Ceremony

By CPL Gerard Giblin

On Friday June 29, 2007, the 164<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company held their deployment ceremony which was located on the Pershing Parade Field at 1000 hours. Attending the ceremony was Major General Stephen R. Layfield, Commanding General of U.S. Army Alaska and Lieutenant Colonel Howard Hunt, the Arctic Military Police Battalion Commander.

During the ceremony, LTC Hunt, Captain Matthew Norris and First Sergeant Paul Bethel affixed the various campaign streamers to the Arctic Enforcers Gideon and the colors were cased until the company arrives in Iraq.

The 164<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company deployed on July 5, 2007 to Iraq and conduct military police operations and train Iraqi police in the region.

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LTC Hunt, CPT Norris, and 1SG Bethel present the Unit Streamers

## 28<sup>th</sup> MP Detachment

The annual Alaska Peace Officer's Association TOP GUN competition was held 23 June 2007. The Battalion was represented by the Battalion CD, LTC Hunt and the Battalion XO, MAJ Andrew Sullivan. The DA Police force was represented by Officer Noah Meisenheimer. The event consisted

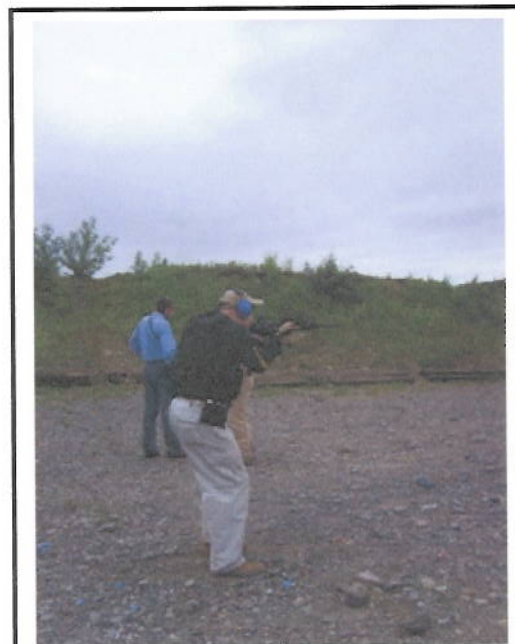
of two pistol courses, a shotgun course of fire, a long gun event and a special event called the "Tequila Bar Shootout". All events required shooting on the move while making immediate tactical decisions. Out of a field of over 50 peace officers representing every law



*Officer Meisenheimer took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the long gun competition*

enforcement agency the MP BN was at the top of the field. Officer Meisenheimer placed first in the long gun competition, and MAJ Sullivan finished just a fraction of a second behind to place third. The long gun competition involved shooting multiple moving targets utilizing hostages for cover at a range of 25 meters. LTC Hunt won the "Tequila Bar Shootout" beating the competition by over two seconds. This competition, one of the highlights of the event, placed the shooter in a seated position, with a (full to the brim) glass of "simulated" alcohol in the strong shooting hand, forcing the shooter to use his weak hand to shoot. Under a folded newspaper on the table in front of the shooter was a revolver.

The shooter had to respond to an attack by three armed assailants at 1, 4, and 10 meters. The most difficult aspect of the event was that the shooter could not spill any of the drink. Loss of any of the "simulated" alcoholic beverage resulted in disqualification. After much fanfare and many wet shooters, LTC Hunt emerged as the victor, being able to reach forward, secure the pistol, shoot all three assailants and not spill a drop of his beverage in just over 7 seconds.



*MAJ Sullivan took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the long gun competition*





## C/84<sup>th</sup> ENG gear up to renovate Baumeister Range

Baumeister is a MOUT site located near Otter Lake. The existing facility consists of a village of one and two story buildings with a European architecture. The facility provides units the opportunity to train on urban operations with blank ammunition and paintballs. Range Control identified the need to renovate the site to better reflect the contemporary operational environment, and that the renovations would be a good candidate for a troop construction project.

Plans to renovate the site were prepared by 84th Engineer XO 1LT Schaaf to build walls and additions to the existing buildings to give the site a more Middle Eastern style, and provide a more challenging tactical environment. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, a vertical construction platoon with 40 Soldiers was then tasked with executing the construction project. The work on the site so far consists mainly of excavation of the ground surrounding some of the buildings in order to prepare for the pouring of a concrete footer and foundation wall, as well as the removal of a building to make way for future planned construction. The NCOs of 2<sup>nd</sup>

Platoon have been training young Soldiers on the job in the operation of backhoes, the use of surveying equipment, and the building of concrete forms as the project progresses towards the casting of the foundation. Plans for the coming weeks include a field training exercise to construct concrete block walls and adding a



*One Soldier assists another in prep for pouring concrete*

half story to several existing buildings, increasing the size and complexity of the training area. The training and team building that project provides will aid 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon in the execution of its wartime mission, and the improvements to Baumeister Range should make it a more realistic training area for units preparing to deploy.



## 95<sup>th</sup> Soldiers Compete at Chemical School

Each Year the Chemical school at Fort Leonard Wood hosts a Dragon Peak Competition. The competition is an Army wide event that determines the best Chemical Soldiers in the Army. They are tested on Land Navigation, Weapons Qualification, Ruck March, CBRN Tasks and an Evaluation Board. The event is a strenuous two day competition and the winners are awarded at the Regimental Ball later that same week. This year like every year the 95<sup>th</sup> sends down two Soldiers to Fort Leonard Wood to compete. In June SGT West,



*SGT West, Robert (R) and SPC Salo, Nicholas (L) represented the 95<sup>th</sup> Chemical at the annual Dragon Peak Competition. They finished a strong second place and it was the closest event in a long time according to RCSM Alston*



Robert and SPC Salo, Nicholas represented the 95<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company at the competition. Our two Soldiers were leading the entire competition until the end. The last day they were beat out by a Soldier from Germany and Fort Bragg. They finished a strong second and it was the closest event in a long time according to RCSM Alston. The 95<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company is extremely proud of our two Soldiers and that they represented themselves, the Chemical Corps, and the U.S. Army extremely well.





## Personnel Added to the 98<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Co Shop Office

*By SGT Stephani Tolbert*

Shop Office is the central point of all incoming and outgoing work orders. It provides service for nine separate customer units for all equipment requiring Direct Support (DS) work. Personnel include one officer, one Maintenance Control Sergeant (MCS), three inspectors and three clerks. The newest addition to Shop Office is PV2 Adam Steier. PV2 Steier has been in the company for 2 months but has just recently been added to the Shop Office team. He is a motivated 92A coming straight out of AIT. Although he is new to the team he has already performed numerous functions on the SAMS-1E system; processing work orders, ordering parts, picking up parts, and disk drop. He shows great potential and picks up new tasks very quickly. He is truly an asset to the team. Another asset to the team is SGT Lehnartz. He is an inspector who is qualified for QA/QC on equipment ranging from boats to M98 (Armored Combat) to dozers. As the only working inspector he continually works to make sure equipment is up to 10/20 standards or has parts on order by organizational level before it can be accepted by the DS maintenance shop. Also, SGT Lehnartz inspects equipment after the sections have finished their work to ensure the fault was repaired to standard. SGT Lehnartz' hard work and determination ensures that all equipment entering and leaving the

DS shop meets the high standard customers have come to expect from the 98<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, SFC Frazier is the new MCS for the DS shop. With



*SFC Frazier double checks his Key Control Binder for discrepancies*

his previous experience as an MCS, SFC Frazier was able to take over the responsibilities of the 98<sup>th</sup> Maint. Co. MCS with ease. He has accomplished a great deal within the short period of time he has been in the position. Already, he has ordered furniture for all maintenance sections within BLDG 798, revamped the shop office computer automation systems and reestablished key control for the building. Along with coordinating future renovations for the building and continually keeping up on work orders submitted for the building repairs, SFC Frazier maintains stability and provides a professional image of authority. With these three outstanding new Soldiers joining the Shop Office team, they are clearly headed in the right direction.





## Safety First in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Det (ABN)

Safety is always forefront in the minds of the Soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Detachment (ABN). As a result, the 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det. (ABN) participated in another successful and safe airborne operation on July 12, 2007. They were jumping with Major General Stephen R. Layfield, the Commanding General of U.S. Army Alaska, on a mission with 4/25 Airborne Brigade. 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det. provides aerial delivery, and light pack support to all of USARPAC, supported over 100 paratroopers a month. The Rigger's Pledge reminds them, "...that until men grow wings their parachutes must be dependable."



*SPC Allais, in-servicing a parachute, by marking the in-service date on the risers*

They then finish the pledge with: "I will be sure...Always." Rigging parachutes and necessary equipment is a strenuous, but rewarding military occupational specialty (MOS). It requires 100% attention to detail, as any mistake or flaw could result in death, serious injury, or loss of valuable equipment.

The Rigger motto: "***I will be Sure Always,***" exemplifies their ethos, and their attention to detail. Every parachute is inspected with care to ensure that there are no tears, burns, or frays, in any of the parachute material, and that all of the components are serviceable. Any defects are repaired, with two additional inspections, to be sure. The parachute is then packed in several steps, by a certified packer, with an inspector's supervision. There is a check at the end of each step to ensure the parachute's quality. The parachute is inspected by a final inspector before being logged and placed into the ready for issue room, where it is locked and safeguarded until it is time to issue to the jumpers. Riggers use several checks and inspections in order to live up to their motto: "I will be Sure Always." Quality control in the packing of parachutes is not the only time that Riggers must be safe. They utilize material handling equipment (MHE) to move platforms that can carry up to 50,000 lbs, measure up to 32' long, and weigh up to 3200 pounds empty! One of the largest parachutes, the G-11, weighs over 250 lbs, and when fully deployed has a diameter of 100 feet. It takes four Soldiers to pack one in just under an hour, but an experienced team can pack one in under 30 minutes! Due to the weight and bulk of these parachutes, it requires a four man carry.





*SGT Sorensen, packing the MC1-1C, on Rigger Check 1: "After Proper Layout"*

To facilitate the movement and storage of these large items a 4K or 10K forklift is generally used, as it takes up to 10 G-11 parachutes to deploy some equipment systems as heavy as a Stryker. While operating the 4K forklift 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det. (ABN) requires that their Soldiers use a ground guide, and Ballistic Helmets. During Parachute Jump operations the safety of soldiers is carefully managed by the Jumpmasters of the 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det (ABN). These highly trained and professional officers and NCOs are meticulous in the safe planning, training and execution of airborne operations. In the planning phase every detail of the mission is assessed. Some of the considerations include: temperature, medical support, proficiency training, food and water, type of parachutes being used, type of aircraft being used, and Drop Zone approach reference points as seen from above.

Prior to a jump paratroopers are all sent through basic airborne refresher (BAR) training where the Jumpmasters of

the 4<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster tailor the training to the specific aircraft, Drop Zone, and parachutes being used. All jumpers must demonstrate their knowledge of safety standards during this training. The Jumpmasters carefully inspect all equipment being jumped by each paratrooper. If deficiencies are found they are corrected under the supervision of a Jumpmaster and the equipment is then re-inspected.

Each paratrooper undergoes a Jumpmaster Personnel Inspection where every item, strap, buckle, link, and tie is inspected, and certified as satisfactory before the paratrooper is allowed to jump.



*PVT Wonders is checking for cut, burnt or missing anti-inversion netting, and checking the stitching attaching it to the lower lateral band*

Once aboard the aircraft the jumpers are given all commands by a Jumpmaster. Every move is made under the supervision of a well trained Jumpmaster team. The Jumpmaster team inspects the aircraft to ensure that it is safe for paratroopers to exit. The Jumpmasters then identify the drop zone and look for hazards outside the aircraft to include other aircraft,



moving vehicles, or any other possible hazards to a jumper.

The Jumpmasters then ensure the safe exit of all paratroopers before exiting the aircraft themselves. Two Jumpmasters stay on board the aircraft to ensure that no jumpers are being towed. On the ground a Jumpmaster monitors the safety of the Drop Zone and relays wind and

weather conditions to the Aircraft. Throughout all of the airborne operation's packing and inspection processes for parachutes, safety is forefront in 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det. (ABN)'s mission. Because all training is potentially life threatening, every task is done with pride and care. The Riggers of 4<sup>th</sup> QM Det. (ABN) live up to the Rigger's Motto: ***"I will be sure always."***

### "Watch Your Lane"

The month of July has brought more key leaders to the front to conduct training. 2LT Gooch and SSG Sepulveda planned and executed the company M-16 range which qualified 50 Soldiers on their primary weapon. Every step of the process they were there to ensure all personnel on and around the range were safe and actively engaged in this mission. We had two individuals to join our elite group of 13 expert firers: SGT Mull and SPC Roberts. Not only were we able to complete a successful M-16 range but SSG Perez and SSG Williams made the necessary coordination and executed a familiarization M2 (.50 CAL) range. Together they ensured a Primary

Marksanship Instruction was conducted and 14 Soldiers were trained on how to operate this very effective and important weapon used during gun truck missions. It is important for Soldiers to feel comfortable firing a new weapon system that they may not have fired previously. Both ranges wouldn't have been successful with the support of SGT Smithes, Ammo NCO and SPC Milton and Williams, Combat Lifesavers. Team work is the key to our success in these very vital training events and the NCOs and Soldiers mentioned above are just a sample of the great variety of experience and professionals that we have in the 62d TC.







## The Battalion Commander's Corner

*By LTC Howard Hunt*



Polar Bears, you are right in the middle of the critical 101 Days of Summer-enjoy them safely. Everyone remembers the recent Safety Day, so take it seriously. As a Soldier, you have the most dangerous job in the world. We know that, but sometimes I think we flip a switch and turn safety off when we take off the uniform. Think a minute. When we go to war or do a mission, we mitigate a lot of that risk through planning, training, and equipment. For example, you wear a

helmet, eye protection, body armor, and we plan for support and covering fires. You all know that, and would consider it foolish not to wear that stuff in a combat zone. Why should your recreational planning be any different? It shouldn't be. Plan, train, and equip yourself for the recreational mission just like it was a combat mission.

The Polar Bear isn't at the top of the food chain because he is a dummy- he is a savvy Arctic Warrior who can adapt and overcome an obstacle and find food in the frozen north. He is trained from birth, equipped for the mission, and plans his hunts-his survival depends on his success.

**"Be a Polar Bear and Survive!"**

***"Polar Bears!"***



## The Command Sergeant's Major Corner

**By MSG Gregrey Armstrong**



Greeting to all Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Arctic Military Police Battalion; once again, another month has raced by with our Battalions fast-paced OPTEMPO. We have been going non-stop for the last two and a half months now and it does not seem to be slowing down. However, with this said, everyone needs to try to get out and enjoy our short summer. Because it will not be long until the Alaska climate changes on us. So enjoy it while you can! This month, my message is to all the leaders in this Battalion, and it is based on the trend of the junior Soldier issues that keep occurring. There have been just too many incidents appearing in the blotter and I am very concerned that many of our new Soldiers do not fully understand what is expected of them. I see many of them lacking the basic discipline that the Army demands from them.

Therefore, I am charging all NCOs' in this Battalion to get back to the basics and take care of their Soldiers. I want all new Soldiers to get the correct reception and integration just as soon as they report to your units. I want the new Soldiers to know who their first line supervisors are immediately and have leaders phone numbers from day one. I expect them to be able to recite the Soldiers Creed and Warrior Ethos, and I want them to be able to tell you, as their leader, what it means to them and that they understand it. They must be taught to be disciplined and be prepared to take the 'hard right over the easy wrong' and that their actions reflect the good order and discipline of your units. This is my charge to all the Noncommissioned Officers in the Arctic Military Police Battalion. As I said before, we all are doing our part supporting this ongoing fight against terrorism, so keep up the great work, and enjoy your time with fiends and family.

**"Be Vigilant, Be Ready, Be Safe!"**

***"Polar Bears"***





## Polar Bear Community Calendar of Events

July-August 2007				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
<b>16</b> Intramural Flag Football BPFC Football Flds Jul 16-Sep 27	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Summer Reading Program Special Story Hour Consolidated Library 1000	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Grill your Own Steak \$10, Hamburger \$5 Down Under Lounge 1600-1900
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Community Action Council (CAC) Mtg Education & Library Community Center Bldg 7 0930	<b>25</b> Newcomers Orientation Welcome Center Spouses Welcome Bldg 600 0900	<b>26</b> Financial Readiness Trng 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Soldiers Bldg 600 Rm A18 0900	<b>27</b> AUSA Golf Tournament - July 27, Moose Run Golf Course
<b>30</b> SAS Before & After School Prog External Reg for 07/08 for children needing B&A School Care	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Newcomers Orientation Welcome Ctr Spouses Welcome Bldg 600 0900	<b>2</b> Financial Readiness TNG 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Soldiers Bldg 600 Rm A18 0900	<b>3</b> Outdoor Rec BBQ Cook- Out Down Under Lounge \$3-\$7 1100-1700
<b>6</b> Youth SKIES Unlimited Outdoor Adv Program (OAP) (6-12th grade) Kayaking Trip Aug 6-10	<b>7</b> Buckner Physical Fitness Center Unit Sports Mtg 1300	<b>8</b> CYS Parent Advisory Support Council (PASC) Bldg 337	<b>9</b> Health Consumer Adv Council (HCAC) Meeting FRA Ed Ctr 1330	<b>10</b> SAS Club Discovery last day
<b>13</b> Youth SKIES Unlimited Outdoor Adv Program (OAP) (6-12th grade) COPE Challenge & Wilderness Adventure Aug 13-17	<b>14</b> BOSS Meeting Warrior Zone Bldg 655 1400	<b>15</b> Newcomers Orientation Welcome Center Spouses Welcome Bldg 600 0900	<b>16</b> Financial Readiness Trng 1st Term Soldiers Bldg 600 Rm A18 0900  Portage Glacier & Big Game Alaska Trip w/ODR \$50 fee incl trans & tours incl lunch, camera, & rain gear 1000-1700	<b>17</b> Free "Last Day of Freedom" Family Pool Party BPFC Pool 1900  Grill your Own Steak \$10, Hamburger \$5 Down Under Lounge 1600-1900  School State Release In-service Day

*"I learned that good judgment comes from  
experience and that experience grows out of  
mistakes."*

*- General Omar N. Bradley*

Arctic Military Police Battalion  
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FORT RICHARDSON ALASKA

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